

Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs
April 16, 2008-04-28
Meeting Summary

Attendance:

Commissioners

Yolanda Maria Welch, Chair
Richard Cook
Arelis A. Perez
Elizabeth C. Bellavance
Elizabeth Ysla Leight
Ricardo Martinez
Luisa Montero-Diaz
Ricardo Alberto Flores
Christina M. Diaz-Malone
Lydia Espinosa Crafton
Colonel Roberto L. Hylton
Veronica A. Cool
Carmen Ortiz Larsen
Dr. Lea Ybarra
Sonia E. Mora
Lydia Espinosa Crafton
Javier Bustamante

GOCI Staff

Tony Bridges, Director of Outreach
Ruby Stemmler, Executive Director GCHA

Ex - Officios

Jorge Austrich, Ex –Officio DBED
Adam Ortiz, Ex – Officio DLLR
Susan C. Spinnato, Ex –Officio MSDE

Presenters:

Keith Hart, GOVS
Ms. Vicki Schultz, DLLR

VIP Guest:

Enrique Escorza, Consul of Mexico
Yolanda Curtin, Administrative Law Judge Office of Administrative Hearings
Rodney E. Taylor, Chief Ethics & Racial Disparities
Cesar Moreno, USLI
Leni Gonzalez, Executive Director Hispanic Commission from Virginia
Honorable Craig A. Moe, Mayor Laurel
Gayle Snyder, Laurel Council
Frederick Smalls, Laurel Council
Mike Leszcz, Laurel Council
Carlos Camino, Hispanic Liaison Anne Arundel Co Department of Health
Leni Gonzalez, Virginia Hispanic Outreach Coordinator
Indirsa Shaik, United Healthcare
Myneca Y. Ojo, Manager Diversity & Special Initiatives SHA
Nelson A. Ortega, Executive Director Centro de la Comunidad
Maritza Rivera Cohen, Recreation Specialist Montgomery Co
Maria M. Casasco, Hispanic & Latino Outreach Coordinator AA Co. Executive Ofc
Raul E. Cisneros, Deputy Associate Admin., USSBA
Freddy Cueva, Managing Partner CFUSA
Charles A. Ramos, President of CR Dynamics

Summary:

- Pre-meeting Executive Meeting for Commissioners- Update on Strategic Planning Meeting
- Chair Maria Welch opened the meeting and introduced special guests and visiting official.
- Chair Maria Welch, introduced guest speaker; Mr. Keith Hart, Executive Director, Service and Volunteerism Office, informing the Commission of Governor's O'Malley reorganization efforts. New Cultural Commissions. Volunteerism month being in April. and acknowledge Ms. Elizabeth Bellavance, Commissioner for Wicomico County/Eastern Shore that she is a recipient of one of the Volunteerism Awards.
- Mr. Hart explained to the commissioners their duties, which they serve as representatives of the Governor. All are working for the public and we report back to the governor and serve at the pleasure of the Governor
- Mr. Hart, explained that his department channels moneys to all over the state, how can we get moneys national human service act appropriation (federal 4 million national legislation) use local organizations to match with the grants to local organizations. Identify organizations to channel moneys to latino organizations. Service site areas better educate what resources and help is needed.
- Ms. Ruby Stemmler, Executive Director, GCHA, spoke about upcoming events and the outreach summary. Minutes were read and agreed upon.
- Ms. Stemmler, informed the commission about O'Malley-Brown administration legislative outcomes.
- Ms. Stemmler focused some of the attention in upcoming Maryland Latino Education Summit.
- Ms. Stemmler indicated that she was looking forward to more activities and participation of the commission in the following counties: Wicomico, Howard, Anne Arundel and Frederick. Providing more information in the upcoming meetings and helping distribute DLLR – outreach forums flyers.
- Ms. Stemmler indicated that she is working with DLLR and other organizations for additional presentations/forums on home ownership preservation, foreclosure crisis starting with a forum in Wheaton around mid May. This activity will have the involvement of the GCHA subcommittee on housing.
- Informed the commission of upcoming preparations regarding the Hispanic Heritage month, starting with the partnership with Port Discovery. Maryland multicultural advisory council, Baltimore division will be providing training and hoping that commissioner will participate.
- Ms. Stemmler informed the commission of the Chicago USHLI convention in Chicago, the USHYEE symposium, and provided information on the upcoming NALEO convention.
- Mayor of Laurel, Honorable Craig A. Moe, invited the commission to return to laurel and have the meeting in laurel municipal building.

- Chair Welch, introduced our keynote speaker. DLLR is, Ms. Vicki Schultz, DLLR's Senior Advisor for Consumer Protection. Regarding Home Ownership Preservation Legislation, Foreclosure Process Reform Bill – SB216/HB 365 (Amending Real Property Article § 7-105 and adding §§3-104, 7-105.1 thru 7-105.8) signed on April 3, 2008.
- Work in partnership to hold a Foreclosure Forum for the Hispanic Community in the Wheaton and Langley Park communities, which will include nonprofits to help with counseling, legal and faith based issues.
- Work in partnership to create interest in the Hispanic community for residents who work in the construction trade to attend free safety/training courses in taught in Spanish.
- Work in partnership to create state-wide "days" to promote various issues to include; foreclosure, safety and labor issues.

Questions and Answers:

- Individuals in the audience asked questions regarding the foreclosure issue and when this new law was taking effect. When the new town hall meeting regarding foreclosure would take place.
- A lot of people were interested and ask questions and requested contact information for these issues.

Adjournment

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